

# CLINICAL PRACTICE ALERT

April 2007



## Using the Family PACT Pharmacy and Clinic Formulary

Family PACT is a limited benefit program for the provision of family planning and sexually transmitted infection (STI) services. The program has a defined Pharmacy and Clinic Formulary, which includes a wide choice of contraceptive products and supplies and specific STI treatment regimens consisting of antibiotic, antiviral, and antifungal drugs.

### KEY POINTS

- **Prescription drugs and contraceptive supplies included in the *Family PACT Drug and Supply Formulary* can be dispensed either by a Medi-Cal contracted pharmacy with a clinician's prescription or onsite by certain clinic providers.**
- **Drugs dispensed by pharmacies are subject to the pharmacy policies of the Medi-Cal program, while those dispensed by clinics are subject to the policies contained in the *Family PACT Policies, Procedures, and Billing Instructions (PPBI)* manual.**
- **Drug regimens for the treatment of STIs are derived from the current editions of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *2006 Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines* and those of the California Department of Health Services Sexually Transmitted Diseases Control Branch.**
- **Antibiotic drug regimens are intended mainly for the treatment of acute STIs. The only long term suppressive regimen included in the Formulary is acyclovir for clients with recurrent genital herpes.**

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Can I prescribe or dispense a Formulary antibiotic for a client's sexual partner?

The amount of drug prescribed to a client should not be doubled to provide treatment for his or her partner. Drug therapy is available to a partner who is your patient, eligible for the Family PACT program, and provided with a prescription unique to that person. California statute authorizes clinicians to provide treatment for partners of clients with chlamydia without evaluating the partners in person. Drugs for partner-delivered therapy are reimbursed by Family PACT only for partners who are enrolled in the Program.

### Can I order a drug listed in the Family PACT Formulary for a medical condition not covered in the program?

No. Each Formulary drug is linked to a particular primary diagnosis code (S-code), and in some cases, a secondary diagnosis code (ICD-9-CM code). Use of the drug beyond the listed indications is not a benefit of the Family PACT program.

### Can a client be given a prescription for a non-formulary drug at a Family PACT visit?

Yes. However, the drug cannot be billed to Family PACT. While the client must be informed of their financial responsibility, it is acceptable for a clinic or pharmacy to charge a client for a drug or supply that is not a benefit of the program.

### Is it possible to prescribe a non-formulary drug for a client with covered method complication?

All drugs for management of method complications listed in the PPBI require prior authorization using the Medi-Cal Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) process. Describe the complication and the justification of medical necessity so that the pharmacist can complete the TAR. Write on the prescription the appropriate S-code (SXX.3) diagnosis for the complication treated.

### How often can prescriptions be refilled?

Drugs dispensed by pharmacies will be refilled on the basis of Medi-Cal pharmacy policies. Drugs dispensed by clinics can be refilled no sooner than the minimal fill frequency interval listed in the *Family PACT Price Guide*.

### Can I prescribe a suppressive regimen of fluconazole for recurrent vaginal candidiasis or acyclovir for the infected partner in a herpes simplex virus type 2 discordant couple?

No. Other than acyclovir to prevent recurrent genital herpes outbreaks, suppressive and prophylactic regimens are not covered.

### Are all oral contraceptive brands covered by Family PACT?

At this time, virtually all Food and Drug Administration-approved oral contraceptive brands can be dispensed by pharmacies. The same is true with dispensing clinics (with the exception of Seasonale<sup>®</sup> and Seasonique<sup>™</sup>), although clinics may not carry some brands due to reimbursement limits.

### How are drugs added to or deleted from the Formulary?

The Family PACT Clinical Practice Committee considers requests periodically for the addition or deletion of drugs and contraceptive supplies from the Family PACT Drug Formulary. Its recommendations are made to the Office of Family Planning where final decisions are made.

## Program Policy

This alert provides an interpretation of the Family PACT Standards regarding the use of the Family PACT Pharmacy and Clinic Formulary. Providers should refer to the Family PACT PPBI manual for the complete text of the Family PACT Standards, official administrative practices and billing information. For the purposes of this and other Family PACT Clinical Practice Alerts, the term "shall" indicates a program requirement; the term "should" is advisory and not required.